**Fresno, CA -** Today, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20) announced that nearly \$500,000 has been awarded to Valley Health Team, Inc. from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will be used to fund the expansion of the facility's rural healthcare services.

" Healthcare availability to all citizens is necessary to foster consciousness about healthy habits that benefit all community members, " Congressman Costa Stated.

Valley Health Team, Inc. is one of 13 health centers in the Central Valley Health Network. The organization reaches out to rural communities of west Fresno County and offers assistance to members of those communities.

The funds received, in the amount of \$489,114, will be used to help the Valley Health Team, Inc. make progress on implementation of the agency's goals. Providing educational services to young parents, providing basic health education and preventive services to farmworkers and working to lower the rates of teenage pregnancy are just a few of this organization's aspirations.

" The funds offered through the Department of Health and Human Services will allow the Valley Health Team, Inc. to positively impact our area's rural health needs, " Congressman Costa concluded.